



SKATING RINK IN BUSHNELL PARK OPENS NOVEMBER 25

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(September 16, 2011)--- The City of Hartford, iQuilt, and Champions Skating today announced that *iQuilt Presents* Hartford Winterfest will open Friday, November 25th, to highlight a season of free, public ice skating, historic park appreciation, and the enjoyment of Hartford as a choice destination for family fun and entertainment.

“We just finished recognizing the Labor Day Holiday. Now it is time to kick-off our labor of love. Hartford Winterfest will open at Bushnell Park on Friday, November 25th, the day after Thanksgiving, with a bigger skating rink, a longer skating season that will last through Valentine’s Day Weekend, and traditional lights in the park. This is part of my administration’s mission to make Downtown and all of Hartford comes alive with year-round arts and entertainment events,” said Mayor Segarra.

iQuilt Presents Hartford Winterfest starts at 4pm November 25th with a procession from the Carousel to the skating rink that will include some entertainment and Hartford and holiday flair. After the ribbon cutting, the rink will be open for free public skating. Then there will be an ice show that evening (as well as every Friday and Saturday night from 6-7pm) followed by more public skating.

“Last year, 20,000 people came to skate or watch skating and it is a thrill to bring this opportunity back for families to enjoy once again,” said Bob Crawford of Champions Skating who will be building the rink starting November 1st.

This year the rink will be 90’ x 80’. Last year, it was 90’ x 40’. That means 140 people will be able to skate at once instead of just 70. Once again, ice time will be 45 minute intervals and the wrist-band system will be used. Public skating hours are 11am-8pm on Sunday-Thursday and 11am-9pm on Friday and Saturday.

iQuilt will present this year’s event. Board Chairperson Chuck Shivery says, “This is a natural partnership as *iQuilt’s* mission is to better connect our open spaces with our Arts, Heritage and Cultural venues.”

Shivery thanked the Greater Hartford Arts Council and the MetroHartford Alliance for their ongoing fundraising efforts to reach the goal of \$400,000. He then made the proud announcement that Northeast Utilities/Connecticut Light and Power is the lead sponsor.

Other corporations are invited to step forward. So far, the early investors include: Travelers (Zamboni sponsor); United Technologies (lighting sponsor); The Hartford; United Healthcare; Bank of America; Webster Bank; Hartford Business Improvement District; and Connecticut Bank and Trust.

“The countdown to skating is underway. We’re creating a new tradition that will once again attract people from the city and suburbs alike and make Hartford a choice destination. Skating will not just be a holiday treat but a winter season treat, proving once again that our parks are year-round treasures where people can have fun with family and friends,” says Mayor Segarra.